

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 OIC-04 /181 W  
----- 006621

R 061200Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 618

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, CE

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE XXVIII RENEGOTIATIONS - SRI LANKA

REF: A) STATE 40261; B) STATE 32206

1. REF A MOST HELPFUL. ON MARCH 4 EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER SUMMARIZED REF B POSITION WITH NEWLY-ON-BOARD SENIOR OFFICIAL OF COMMERCE DIRECTORS OFFICE. WITH DIRECTOR OUT OF COUNTRY AND HOUSE EXPERT ON GATT (NAGARATNAM) INDEFINITELY IN GENEVA, NEW CONTACT ONLY GENERALLY FAMILIARY WITH RENEGOTIATION ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND AS FOLLOWS: A) POSITION IS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS USG REPRESENTATIONS. HOWEVER, IF USG DESIRES TO PURSUE MATTER TO CONCLUSION, POSITION SHOULD BE PRESENTED FORMALLY AND EXPLICITLY, I.E., BY NOTE; B) ALTHOUGH OF COURSE GSL WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER RENEWED USG REPRESENTATION, OFFICIAL REITERATED EARLIER RESPONSE THAT GSL DOES NOT INTEND TO REBIND AT LOWER TARIFF LEVELS. FURTHERMORE, HE OPINED THAT GSL WOULD NOT ACTIVELY PURSUE LEGALIZATION

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OF ANY TARIFF REBINDINGS BECAUSE ONGOING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

SUCH AS FOR EEC EXPANSION MIGHT NECESSITATE FURTHER GENERAL REVISIONS; C) FINALLY HE ASKED WHY USG PURSUING MATTER WHEN REAL TRADE SIGNIFICANCE IS MINIMAL (IMPORTS OF REF B LISTED ITEMS HAVE VIRTUALLY CEASED DUE TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE) AND WHEN NO OTHER CONTRACTING PARTY HAS BROACHED ISSUE.

2. WE HAVE DRAFT NOTE READY DESCRIBING AND SUPPORTING PRESENT USG POSITION. WE RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE IN TERMS LEGAL PRECEDENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GATT INTEGRITY AND THAT PROBLEM IS LONG UNRESOLVED. HOWEVER, WE WISH POINT OUT THAT GSL IS NOW TOTALLY ENGROSSED IN COPING WITH OVERWHELMING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, LARGELY CONSISTING OF ALMOST DAY-TO-DAY SCRAMBLE TO FEED CEYLONER POPULATION. DECISION-MAKERS WILL THEREFORE NOT FOCUS ON ISSUE ANY TIME SOON. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS DEPT BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL TO PROCEED NOW, WE SHALL HOLD NOTE UNTIL ECONOMIC OFFICER HAWLEY CAN DISCUSS MATTER DURING WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS MARCH 12-18.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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